

REMARKS

Claims 1-53 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 9-15, and 26-53 have been withdrawn pursuant to restriction/election of species requirements. No claims are presently allowed.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-8, and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(a) as allegedly anticipated by Wartena et al.

The publication date of Wartena is October 2002, which is less than one year before the filing date of the present application, 09/30/2003. The reference may be overcome by a declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132.

The attached Declarations are signed by all the present inventors and contain an unequivocal statement that they conceived or invented the subject matter disclosed Wartena. This overcomes the reference.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wartena in view of Zheng et al. (US 6,097,588).

As explained above, Wartena has been overcome by the attached declarations.

Claims 17-19 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wartena in view of the 202nd Meeting article dated October 2002.

As explained above, Wartena has been overcome by the attached declarations.

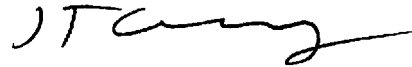
Claims 20-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Wartena in view of Evans (US 5,737,181).

As explained above, Wartena has been overcome by the attached declarations.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

In the event that a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0281, and in the event that there is a credit due, please credit Deposit Account No. 50-0281.

Respectfully submitted,



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